by 0·02 mgr./mm., probably owing to the absence of solubility of the substance of the older specimens of glass.—A method for determining the thermal conductivity of solids, by F. A. Schulze. A rod of the material examined is at the temperature of the room. At a short distance from one end a thermo-couple is inserted. From a given instant, the end surface is exposed to a stream of water at a different temperature. Knowing the specific heat of the body, the author works out in detail an equation for finding the thermal conductivity, and illustrates it by examples which show a maximum error of 4 per cent.—Specific heats of metals at low temperatures, by U. Behn. If the decrease of the specific heat with the temperature is represented graphically, it appears probable that all the curves intersect at the temperature of absolute zero. At that temperature it is also possible that the specific heats themselves are zero. In any case, Dulong and Petit's law does not hold for low temperatures.—Coherers, by E. Aschkinass. The theory of the coherer according to which the decrease of resistance is accounted for by sparks which weld the particles temporarily together, does not suffice for the case of peroxide of lead, where the resistance increases under the influence of electric waves. The coherer action pure and simple is only observed under feeble electric radiation. When the latter is strong, disturbing influences supervene.—Electrical and thermal measurements made on discharge tubes, by E. Wiedemann and G. C. Schmidt. When the appearance of discharge tubes is similar, whether they are fed by an influence machine or a continuous current, it is safe to assume that the potential gradients are the same. The values of the potential gradient as derived from probes and from calorimetric measurements respectively are the same, but the latter method is more suitable when the discharge is discontinuous.

Bollettino della Società Seismologica Italiana, vol. iv., 1898, Nos. 2, 3.—Echo in Europe of the Indian earthquake of June 12, 1897, by G. Agamennone.—Seismoscope with multiple effect, by A. Cancani.—The earthquake of Grandson [February 22, 1898], by F. A. Forel, a paper (in French) describing a series of short waves, about half a metre in height, which were observed on the lake of Neuchâtel at the time of this earthquake.—On the various systems of registration in seismology, by A. Cancani.—On the Rieti earthquake of June 28, 1898, by G. Brucchietti. An account of the damage caused by this earthquake at Rieti and elsewhere.—Notices of earthquakes recorded in Italy (July 27–September 17, 1897), by G. Agamennone, the most important being the earthquakes of Japan on August 4–5, Turkestan on August 15 and September 17, and Tuscany on September 6, and earthquakes of unknown, but distant, origin on August 6, 13, 16, 20 and 26.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Entomological Society, November 2.—Mr. G. H. Verrall, Vice-President, in the chair.—Mr. Merrifield exhibited some *M. aurinia* from Touraine forced and cooled as pupae, the latter being much the darker and more strongly marked, some *E. cardamines* from Sussex, those cooled having the apices of the wings darker and the discal spots smaller than those which have been forced, and some *C. edusa* from eggs laid by two normal females taken in Savoy, two out of the five reared being of the var. *helice;* the marginal border of one male, which had been forced, was very pale and much suffused with long yellow scales. He also showed four *P. machaon;* two of them, forced as pupae, had their dark parts very pale and their tails long and slender, the two which had been cooled having the dark parts much extended in area and darkened in hue, their tails being short and broad. These results, which were to be obtained with winter as well as summer pupae, corresponded with those previously obtained by Dr. Standfuss.—Mr. J. J. Walker exhibited two winter nests of *Porthesia chrysorrhoea* from the Isle of Sheppey, where the species had lately become very common.—Dr. Mason exhibited a Buprestid larva found among Baltic timber at Burton-on-Trent. This had been among wood in a box since the beginning of July last, and there was scarcely a trace of frass. Marsham had recorded the escape of a larva of *Buprestis splendens* from the wood of a desk in the Guildhall, which had stood there for more than twenty years. It is probable that the growth is extraordinarily slow, and consequently that the larva can maintain life for very long periods in most unfavourable conditions.—Mr. Blandford called attention to similar cases which he had brought before the Society. It appeared likely to him, from what was known about such insects as *Callidium variabile*, which was occasionally bred from dry wood at long intervals, that these species were not abnormally slow-growing under normal conditions, but became so in dry timber, in which they probably sustained life with difficulty, especially when the outside of the wood was varnished.—Mr. Waterhouse exhibited for Mr. G. W. Kirkaldy living examples in various stages of a *Caryoborus* in nuts of *Attalea funifera* from Brazil. Elditt had described the attacks of an allied species upon the seeds of *Cassia fistula.*—Mr. Tutt exhibited for Dr. Chapman a series of Swiss examples of *Zygaena exulans*, and discussed the differences between them and the Scotch form.—Papers were communicated by Mr. W. F. H. Blandford on some Oriental Scolytidæ of economic importance with descriptions of five new species, and by Mr. van der Wulp (through Colonel Yerbury) on Asilidae from Aden and its neighbourhood.

Linnean Society, November 3, Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—The President exhibited an abnormal twin tusk of an adult Indian elephant, and made the following remarks. The tusk occupied the right jaw of the animal. The two teeth were developed from separate papillae and remained perfectly separate, without any connecting ossification, although they grew side by side from the same socket, the uneven surface of one closely fitting into that of the other. He was inclined to look upon the smaller tooth as a persistent milk-tooth, which, not being shed, continued to grow from its original papilla; but Mr. Charles Tomes, F.R.S., considered it a case of duplication, such as is sometimes found in man and other mammals, in which the development of two separate papillae gives rise to a twin tooth of the permanent dentition. No such case seems to have been previously observed in the elephant.—Prof. G. B. Howes, F.R.S., exhibited some young and six living eggs of the New Zealand lizard *Sphenodon* (*Hatteria*), received from Prof. A. Dendy, of Christchurch, N.Z., part of a full series which had furnished that gentleman with material for a monograph on the general development of the animal, now in course of publication. Briefly referring to the previous attempt of Parker and Thomas to secure material for the study of this subject, he said that the palaeontological discoveries of Credner justified us in regarding the Rhyncocephalia as the most central among terrestrial vertebrata. He remarked that the specimens had been sent him for the express purpose of working out the development of the skeleton. Recapitulating the more salient discoveries recently announced by Prof. Dendy in his preliminary paper in the *Proc. Royal Soc.* and elsewhere he said, in comment upon them, that the plugging of the nostrils by cellular tissue during development is a phenomenon already described by the late T. J. Parker in *Apteryx*, and that it appeared to him akin to that of the occlusion of the oesophagus of the vertebrate embryo first described by Balfour, which De Meuron had sought to associate with the metamorphosis of the branchial diverticula. He pointed out that Dendy's discovery of a third pair of incisors was confirmatory for the upper jaw of the conclusions of the late Dr. G. Baur, and remarked that he had received a letter from Prof. Dendy, dated September 12, stating that he and his colleagues at the Antipodes had secured a Government order protecting the eggs as well as the young of *Hatteria.*—Mr. A. F. Crossman exhibited some photographs illustrating the case of a chicken hatched and reared by a common buzzard. The buzzard had laid an egg in captivity, and manifesting a desire to incubate, a hen's egg was substituted, which in due course was hatched and the chicken reared, the foster-parent feeding it upon morsels of flesh. It thus appeared that in a conflict of instinct, under altered conditions of life, the maternal instinct had proved stronger than the natural impulse to kill and devour weaker prey. Mr. J. E. Harting remarked that the case was not an isolated one, instances of buzzards rearing chickens having been previously recorded (*Zool.*, 1881, p. 103), as well as several cases of eagles hatching goose-eggs and rearing the goslings (NATURE, April 1879, and *Field*, February 1896).—Messrs. H. and J. Groves exhibited specimens of *Nitella hyalina*, Agardh, a new British plant, and made some remarks on its affinities and distribution. Mr. W. Carruthers, F.R.S., and the President made some observations by way of comment.—Prof. H. Marshall Ward, F.R.S., read a joint paper by Miss Dale (Pfeiffer student of Girton College) and himself on *Craterostigma pumilum* (Hochst.), a rare plant which had been brought from Somaliland by Mrs. Lort Phillips. As it had flowered in the Cambridge Botanic Garden during the past summer, and ripe capsules and seeds were obtained, a complete description was possible.—The Rev. T. R. Stebbing, F.R.S., read a paper on "Amphipoda from the Copenhagen Museum and other Sources," in continuation of a former memoir on this subject (*Trans.* Linn. Soc., *Zool.*, vol. vii. part 2). Several new species and a few new genera were described.

Royal Microscopical Society, October 19.—Mr. E. M. Nelson, President, in the chair.—The President referred to a microscope made by Reichert, and exhibited by Messrs. Baker. It was designed for examining opaque objects; a reflector was fitted in the tube of the microscope, which threw the light down upon the object through the objective. This was an old idea revived, but in its present form it was said to be very useful in steel works for examination of fractures of the metal.—Mr. C. Beck exhibited four new students' microscopes, mounted upon true tripod stands.—Messrs. Watson and Sons exhibited another microscope, named the "Fram," specially designed for students' use.—The President exhibited an old microscope by John Cuff, of Fleet Street, date about 1760; and also an old French microscope, date about 1765. He then described some micro-rulings presented to the Society, and made by Mr. H. J. Grayson, of Melbourne; these were mounted in realgar, a medium possessing a refractive index of 2·5, which caused the lines to stand out with great distinctness. Two were micrometers and two were test plates. The micrometer rulings had been critically measured, and were found to be accurately and evenly spaced; and the test plates were beautifully ruled. There was also a specimen of ruling suitable for a diffraction grating. Mr. Grayson had likewise sent a number of slides of test diatoms mounted in realgar, and some mounted in styrax, for comparison. The slides showed no signs of crystallisation; they had stood the heat and rough handling in the post from Melbourne, and the great heat of the past summer; and Mr. Grayson said that, from the method adopted by him, there was no fear of crystallisation taking place.—A paper by Mr. J. Newton Coombe, "The Reproduction of Diatoms," was read by the Secretary, and was illustrated by a series of lantern slides. Mr. Bennett said the paper appeared to throw a new light on the various modes of reproduction, and seemed to point to the removal of the diatoms from the Protophyta to a position among the Conjugatae.—Part iii. of Mr. Millett's "Report on the recent Foraminifera of the Malay Archipelago" was taken as read.

Manchester.

Literary and Philosophical Society, October 18.—J. Cosmo Melvill, President, in the chair.—Mr. J. J. Ashworth exhibited a plant and cobs (both ripened and immature) of Indian corn (*Zea maïs*) grown at Wilmslow, Cheshire. Mr. Charles Bailey made some observations on the exhibits, remarking especially on the inflorescence and fructification of the plant, and on its geographical distribution.—The President communicated a paper by Mr. Peter Cameron, entitled "Hymenoptera Orientalia, or contributions to a knowledge of the Hymenoptera of the Oriental zoological region," Part viii. The author described a large number of new genera and species of hymenopterous insects from the Khasia Hills in the Eastern Himalayas, a district which has not hitherto been worked for its Hymenoptera. The specimens were collected by the natives, some of whom make excellent collectors, but who mostly confine their attention to large or medium-sized species. That the species inhabiting this region must number many thousands, is evident from the fact that in the comparatively small district of Sikkim there are found about 600 species of butterflies and (probably) thousands of moths.

Edinburgh.

Mathematical Society, November 11.—Mr. J. B. Clark, President, in the chair.—Mr. George Duthie communicated a paper on "Systems of circles analogous to Tucker's circles," by Mr. J. A. Third, and Mr. W. L. Thomson read a paper on the "Geometrical theory of the hyperbolic functions."—On the motion of Prof. G. A. Gibson, a committee was appointed to consider the treatment of proportion in elementary mathematics.—The following were elected office-bearers for the current session:—President: Dr. Alex. Morgan. Vice-President: Mr. R. F. Muirhead. Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. W. Butters. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. F. Spence. Editors: Mr. John Dougall, Mr. Charles Tweedie, Dr. C. G. Knott. Committee: Messrs. J. D. H. Dickson, Geo. Duthie, and A. Lindsay.

Paris.

Academy of Sciences, November 14.—M. Wolf in the chair.—Observations of the meteor swarm, by M. Loewy. Owing to the unfavourable weather, on the nights of November 10 and 11 only two meteors belonging to the group of Leonids were observed.—Observations on the sun, made at the Observatory of Lyons with the Brunner equatorial during the second quarter of 1898, by M. J. Guillaume. The results are given in three tables, showing mean area of spots, and their distribution in latitude and longitude respectively.—On the development of uniform functions in Taylor's series, by M. Émile Borel.—On an indeterminate equation, by M. Carl Störmer.—On the production of crystallised tungsten by electrolysis, by M. L. A. Hallopeau. The electrolysis of lithium paratungstate gives metallic tungsten in a well crystallised state. The corresponding sodium and potassium salts yield only tungsto-tungstates on similar treatment.—Volumetric estimation of boric acid, by M. Copaux. The method used is developed from those proposed by Gasselin, R. Thomson, and Barthe, the titration being carried out in presence of alcohol and glycerol, helianthin and phenolphthaleïn being used as indicators. The analyses of borax and ethyl borate quoted are very satisfactory.—New halogen derivatives of guiacol and veratrol, by M. H. Cousin. Trichloro-guiacol, dibromoguiacol, tetrabromoguiacol, trichloroveratrol and tribromoveratrol have been prepared and described.—On a new sugar accompanying sorbite, by MM. Camille Vincent and J. Meunier. When sorbite is crystallised from aqueous solutions, the new sugar remains in the mother liquors. These are then fermented by the sorbose bacterium, which oxidises the residual sorbite, and the sugar is then extracted from the syrup by benzaldehyde in presence of sulphuric acid. The sugar obtained from this is an octite, $C_8H_{18}O_8$, and has not been crystallised. A comparison of its properties with those of sorbite shows that the substances are quite distinct.—Derivatives of natural methylheptenone, by M. Georges Leser. The reaction between sodium, acetic ether, and natural methylheptenone has been studied, and a condensation product $C_{16}H_{26}O$ isolated and analysed.—Volumetric analysis of acetaldehyde, by M. X. Rocques. The results obtained by the method previously given by the author have since been found to vary with the temperature. To obtain exact results it is necessary to carry out the reaction in closed vessels at 50° C.—Estimation of diabetic sugars by the polarimeter, by the reduction coefficient, and by fermentation, by M. Frederic Landolph. The author distinguishes three classes of diabetic sugars, which are clearly indicated by the relations existing between the amount of Fehling's solution reduced, the rotatory power, and the amount of carbon dioxide produced on fermentation.—Some general preliminary conclusions on humic coals, by M. C. Eg. Bertrand.—On the mode of formation of indigo in the methods of commercial extraction, by M. L. Bréaudat. The suggestion that micro-organisms play a part in the indigo fermentation, would appear to have no foundation. The plant especially studied, *Isatis alpina*, contains a hydrolysing diastase and an oxydase. In presence of water, the former splits up indican into indigo-white and indiglucin, and the latter oxidises the indigo-white in presence of an alkali to indigo.—On the absorption of the halogen salts of potassium by plants, by M. E. Demoussy. Plants growing in solutions containing potassium chloride, at first rapidly absorb the salt, but this absorption slows down and finally ceases. Sodium bromide is also absorbed, but not the iodide.—Researches on lesions of the nervous centres produced by experimental hyperthermy, by M. G. Marinesco.—On early lesions of the nervous centres in hydrophobia, by M. V. Babes. Hydrophobia produces cellular and vascular lesions of the grey matter, which can be made out one or two days before the appearance of the first rabic symptoms.—Observations on the general course of histogenesis and organogenesis, by M. J. Kunstler.—On burrowing in the Homaridae and Thalassinidae, by M. Georges Bohn.—On the development of some species of *Trochus*, by M. A. Robert.—Absorption of carbohydrates by roots, by M. Jules Laurent. A maize plant will grow and gain weight in an atmosphere free from carbon dioxide, if supplied with glucose. Sunlight, however, is necessary for this assimilation.—On the vertebrate layer of the asphalte mines of Pyrimont (Savoy), by M. Ch. Depéret.—On the green ray, by M. L. Libert. Notice of the appearance of this phenomena at Sainte-Adresse.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Linnean Society, September 28.—Prof. J. T. Wilson, President, in the chair.—On the mountain ash of Southern New South Wales, by Henry Deane and J. H. Maiden.—On two new species of *Eucalyptus* from New South Wales, by R. T. Baker. Two well-defined species, remarkable for the chemical constituents of their oils, belonging to the group Renantherae, and known vernacularly as "Silver Top Stringybark" and "Messmate" respectively, are recorded in this paper. For the first of the two the name *E. laevopinea* is suggested because the oil obtained from the leaves consists largely of pinene which is *laevo-rotatory*, and the name *E. dextropinea* is proposed for the second species owing to the oil consisting largely of pinene, which in this case is *dextro-rotatory*. In both the specific rotation is greater than in the well-known pinenes obtained from the Coniferae, although chemically identical.—A description of certain objects of unknown significance, formerly used by some New South Wales tribes, by Walter R. Harper.—Mr. W. W. Froggatt exhibited a twig from a fruit-tree obtained near Sydney, which had 150 eggs of an undetermined grasshopper attached to it in a double row; also a number of the newly-hatched young insects. These were of interest because of their remarkable resemblance to a common ant (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*, Sm.), which is plentiful in the orchards and bush about Sydney, hunting over the trees for food. It seems probable that this may be a case of protective mimicry, the grasshoppers perhaps being protected against the attacks of insectivorous birds, and the ants also deceived.—Mr. J. Mitchell, of Newcastle, forwarded a brief note announcing his discovery of the print of an insect's wing in the shale overlying the Yard Seam of coal at the base of Flagstaff Hill, Newcastle. There was, he believed, no previous record of the presence of insect remains in rocks of the Permo-Carboniferous Age in New South Wales. He hoped to be able to exhibit the specimen at a future meeting.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—Preliminary Note on the Spectrum of the Corona: Sir J. Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S.—On the Condensation Nuclei produced in Gases by the Action of Röntgen Rays, Uranian Rays, Ultra-Violet Light, and other Agents: C. T. R. Wilson.—The Origin of the Gases evolved on Heating Mineral Substances, Meteorites, &c.: Dr. M. W. Travers.—Memoir on the Theory of the Partitions of Numbers: Part 2: Major MacMahon, F.R.S.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Rotatory Converters: Prof. S. P. Thompson, F.R.S.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—On the Properties of Liquid Mixtures: R. A. Lehfeldt.—On certain Diffraction Fringes as applied to Micrometric Observations: L. N. G. Filon.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—A Year on Christmas Island: Chas. W. Andrews.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE, at 8.30.—Gold-Mining in Victoria: Ernest Lidgey.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Acetylene: Prof. Vivian B. Lewes.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES, at 5.30.—Inaugural Address by the President, H. W. Manly.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Further Notes on the Amazonian Lepidosiren: Dr. E. A. Goeldi.—On the Anatomy of Adult and Foetal Specimens of *Pedetes caffer* as compared with that of the *Dipodidae*: F. G. Parsons.—On a New Species of Spiders from Trinidad, West Indies: F. O. Pickard-Cambridge.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—The Effect of Subsidence due to Coal-Workings upon Bridges and other Structures: Stanley Robert Kay.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Photographic Developers and Development; C. H. Bothamley, F.R.S.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Biology of *Agaricus velutipes*, Curt.: R. H. Biffen.—On the Gastric Glands of the Marsupialia: Jas. Johnstone.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Ballot for the Election of Fellows.—The Oxidation of Polyhydric Alcohols in presence of Iron: H. J. H. Fenton and H. Jackson.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, at 8.—Contributions to the Geology of the Thame Valley: A. M. Davies.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—The Sunlight Gold-bearing Reef, Lydenberg, Transvaal: Charles Benjamin Saner.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, at 8.

BOOKS, PAMPHLET, SERIALS, &c., RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Deutscher Botaniker-Kalendar für 1899 (Berlin, Borntraeger).—Symbolae Antillanae seu Fundamenta Florae Indiae Occidentalis: editit I. Urban, Vol. 1, Fasc. i. (Berlin, Borntraeger).—Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education: Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting (Lancaster, Pa.).—Transactions of the American Pediatric Society, Ninth Session (New York).—Psychologische Untersuchungen über das Lesen: B. Erdmann and R. Dodge (Halle, Niemeyer).—Animals of To-day, their Life Conversation: C. J. Cornish (Seeley).—Colour in Nature: Dr. M. I. Newbigin (Murray).—Among the Celestials: Captain F. Younghusband (Murray).—The Five Windows of the Soul: E. H. Aitken (Murray).—Australian Legendary Tales: collected by K. L. Parker (Nutt).—More Australian Legendary Tales: collected by K. L. Parker (Nutt).—From Sphinx to Oracle: A. S. White (Hurst).—Essai d'une Philosophie Nouvelle: L. Ribert (Paris, Alcan).—Pflanzen-Geographie auf Physiologischer Grundlage: Prof. A. F. W. Schimper (Jena, Fischer).—Quick and Easy Methods of Calculating: R. G. Blaine (Spon).—The Story of Geographical Discovery: J. Jacobs (Newnes).—Text-book of Algebra: Drs. Fisher and Schwatt, Part 1 (Philadelphia, Fisher).—Monographieen Afrikanischer Pflanzen Familien und Gattungen: i. A. Engler; ii. E. Gilg (Leipzig, Engelmann).

PAMPHLET.—Experiments on the Pressures and Explosive Efficiency of Mixtures of Acetylene and Air (Leeds, Jowett).

SERIALS.—Atlantic Monthly, November (Gay).—Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Vol. xi. Part 1 (Melbourne).—Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science, 1897 (Indianapolis).—Journal of the Franklin Institute, November (Philadelphia).

Public School Protractor Scale (Macmillan).

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